

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 16: Cancelled

17. (New) A drag chain conveyor for use in underground mining, comprising:
  - interconnected, profiled conveyor chutes;
  - at least one conveyor chain of metallic material, guided in said conveyor chutes;
  - plastic carriers attached to said at least one conveyor chain wherein attachment is effected via a molding around of annular chain links of said conveyor chain with plastic, and wherein said plastic, which is molded for a simultaneous production of said plastic carriers monolithically with connecting regions that hold said chain links, penetrates and surrounds said chain links; and
    - at least one drive means for said at least one conveyor chain.
18. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein said at least one conveyor chain is composed of individual, interconnected chain strands having said plastic carriers cast thereon.
19. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein said plastic carriers are disposed between two outwardly disposed individual chains.
20. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein said plastic carriers are disposed on a centrally extending chain.
21. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein plastic carriers are disposed on two spaced-apart central chains that extend centrally through said plastic carriers.
22. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein for production of

said plastic carriers, including their connecting regions with said chain links, a flowable plastic having self-extinguishing, difficult to ignite, and anti-static properties is used.

23. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein for reinforcement, metallic reinforcing particles are cast into said plastic carriers.

24. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 17, wherein for reinforcement of said plastic carriers, reinforcing fibers are introduced into the plastic.

25. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein short reinforcing fibers having a random distribution are embedded in the plastic of said plastic carriers.

26. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein reinforcing fibers that extend over a length of said plastic carriers are introduced into the plastic.

27. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 26, wherein said reinforcing fibers extend about said chain links.

28. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 26, wherein said reinforcing fibers are passed through said chain links.

29. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a mesh of reinforcing fibers is disposed on or in the plastic.

30. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a fabric of reinforcing fibers is introduced into the plastic.

31. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a braiding of reinforcing fibers is introduced into the plastic.

32. (New) A drag chain conveyor according to claim 24, wherein a knitting of reinforcing fibers is introduced into the plastic.